COUNCIL MEETING (REGULAR)
JANUARY 8, 2025

The Council of the Town of Monon met for a regular meeting on **Wednesday, January 8, 2025**, at the Monon Town Hall. Members present were President Ken Hickman, Ron Benakovich, Toni Onken, and Chris Franklin. Also present were Town Marshal/Street Commissioner Roger Young, Attorney Rebecca Trent and Clerk Treasurer Annette Sipkema.

Jamie Myers was absent.

President Hickman started our regular meeting @ 6:30 pm and led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment-of silence.

MINUTES, PAYROLL, BILLS & CLAIMS:

Minutes: President Hickman asked if everyone had a chance to review the Regular meeting minutes from December 4th, 2024.

Chris Franklin made a motion to approve the December 4th REGULAR minutes as presented. Toni Onken seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Payroll, Bills & Claims:

Ron Benakovich made a motion to accept the bills – claims – payroll.
Chris Franklin seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. **$ 176,825.98**

Month End Reconciliation Review / Sign Off....President Hickman reviewed the December 2024 bank reconciliations and validated them. Council Members and Pres. Hickman reviewed and signed off on the December month end balances.

VISITORS

RANDY STRASSER, WHITE COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PRESIDENT, shared that he recently met with President Hickman and Clerk-Treasurer Sipkema to discuss potential housing projects for the Town of Monon. President Strasser's goal is to provide assistance to smaller communities and to be a liaison between the community and project developers. Pres. Strasser described a couple of programs that may be available including Owner Occupied Rehabilitation grants, housing development projects and in fill development. There will be a round table discussion on February 12th with WCED, property developers, the towns of Reynolds and Monon to learn more about these opportunities.

UNFINISHED OR DEFERRED BUSINESS:

COMMONWEALTH ENGINEERING...GABRIELLE TABER stated that the WWTP permit application was submitted to IDEM. The town received a Deficiency Notice/Comment Letter from IDEM on December 12th. Gabrielle explained that this is common practice and that Commonwealth is working on finalizing their response ahead of the Feb 12th deadline. Once the permit is issued, the documents have to be sent to USDA for their approval before the project can go out for bid.

PRESIDENT HICKMAN stated that the town is interested in applying for the Community Crossings Grant and inquired with Gabrielle what the cost may be to hire Commonwealth to prepare a grant application. Gabrielle stated that the fee is based on the overall scope of work. Gabrielle shared that the grant is a matching grant, and it is important to realize that the engineering fees do not count towards the match. Ms. Taber will request Robin Matthews, with the transportation department, contact the town with more information.

STAFF REPORTS:

TOWN MARSHAL ROGER YOUNG....1) Katie Blackman, WC Health Dept, donated a new AED machine to the department. A battery has been ordered for the out of service AED machine. 2) The rifle for the town marshall has been ordered and a shotgun was purchased for the part time deputy vehicle.

STREET COMMISSIONER ROGER YOUNG....received a second quote for the clarifier that was about $1,000 less than the previous quote, but this model would need to be fitted with an adapter. After discussion,

Ron Benakovich made a motion to purchase the clarifier from Tanner Fluke.
Chris Franklin seconded. Motion passed unanimously. ($14,271)

CLERK-TREASURER ANNETTE SIPKEMA...1) There is an issue with the fax line at the office, but CT Sipkema wants to hold off until she receives information on converting to VOIP (internet phones) from Bowsher IT. If we switch to VOIP, a fax line would not be utilized. 2) The Sewer Bond payment for 2025 will be $10,564/month, up from $8,750 in 2024. The 2024 monthly amount was much lower due to the utilization of the balance of $22,279.21 at the start of 2024.

Ron Benakovich made a motion to adjourn the meeting.
Chris Franklin seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned @ 6:56 p.m.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, February 5th, 2025 at 6:30 p.m.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT: _____

COUNCIL VICE PRESIDENT: _____

COUNCIL MEMBER: _____

COUNCIL MEMBER: _____

COUNCIL MEMBER: _____

ATTEST: _____